(b) if so, whether the process of issuing of identity cards to all the citizens in the country has since been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the mandatory use of identity cards during the next General Elections is going to check bogus voting etc.?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (d) According to the Election Commission of India, it is expected that the mandatory use of photo identity cards along with certain alternative means of identification during the next general elections, on the lines of procedure adopted during the last general elections to various Legislative Assemblies will be able to check bogus voting to a large extent.

(b) and (c) The Election Commission has informed that more than thirty-nine crore electors representing 63.5% of the eligible voters in the country (excluding Jammu and Kashmir where the scheme has not been extended) have been provided photo identity cards. The scheme to issue photo identity cards to electors is, however, not a project but a programme for the completion of which no time limit can be fixed as the registration of electors is a continuous and ongoing process (excepting for a brief period between the last date for filing nomination and completion of electoral process) on account of more number of persons becoming eligible for the right of franchise on attaining the age of 18 years as also due to movement of electors.

Inclusion of 'Thachar' Community in SC list

*120. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in receipt of a resolution from Thachar Service Society, Kerala, seeking the revision of the existing list of Scheduled Caste communities and to incorporate the 'Thachar' community in the list; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The request for inclusion of 'Thachar' community as synonym of Thandan in the Scheduled Caste list of Kerala has been referred to the State Government of Kerala for their comments.